

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) An electrolytic apparatus comprising:
an electrolytic tank defining an interior space and having a floor,

a separating member for separating a lower part of the interior space from an upper part thereof, the separating member being movable within the tank, and

a collector element attached to the separating member whereby the separating member acts as a drive apparatus for the collector element, causing the collector element to move across the floor of the electrolytic tank forward in a collecting direction and backwards in a removal direction, the collector element including a filter means that extends into the lower part of the interior space.

20. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, further comprising a lid element that is connected to the collector element in a manner such that the lid element is movable with respect to the collector element.

21. (New) An arrangement according to claim 20, wherein the filter means is installed in the collector element in such a way that the filter means is turnable with respect to the lid element.

22. (New) An arrangement according to claim 21, wherein the filter means is installed in the collector element in such a way that the filter means locks against the lid element in a top position so that material collected by the collector element is trapped between the filter means and the lid element.

23. (New) An arrangement according to claim 20, wherein the lid element is connected to the collector element in such a way that when the lid element is prevented from moving in the collecting direction by engagement with a wall of the electrolytic tank, the collector element will continue to move in the collecting direction.

24. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the filter means comprises a plate provided with apertures.

25. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the filter means comprises a sieve element.

26. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, wherein the filter means comprises a rake element.

27. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, further comprising a directing means that is forward of the collector element for directing at least one fluid jet towards the filter means and displacing solids settled on the floor of the tank towards the filter means.

28. (New) An arrangement according to claim 27, wherein the directing means comprises at least one nozzle that is directed towards the filter means.

29. (New) An arrangement according to claim 19, further comprising at least one suction element to the rear of the collector element for removing solids that pass through the filter means.

30. (New) An electrolytic apparatus comprising:
an electrolytic tank having a floor, a front wall and a rear wall,
electrodes suspended within the tank, there being a lower region of the tank beneath the electrodes,
a separating member movable within the tank,
support and control members within the tank for guiding the separating member along a path traversing the lower region of the tank, wherein when the separating member is in the lower region of the tank it separates the electrodes from a bottom part of the lower region of the tank and remains substantially above the floor of the tank, and
a collector element attached to the separating member whereby the separating member acts as a drive apparatus for the collector element, causing the collector element to move across the floor of the electrolytic tank forward in a collecting direction from the rear wall of the tank to the front wall of the tank and backwards in a removal

direction, the collector element including a filter means that extends substantially to the floor of the tank.

31. (New) An arrangement according to claim 30, further comprising a lid element that is connected to the collector element in a manner such that the lid element is movable with respect to the collector element.

32. (New) An arrangement according to claim 31, wherein the filter means is installed in the collector element in such a way that the filter means is turnable with respect to the lid element.

33. (New) An arrangement according to claim 32, wherein the filter means is installed in the collector element in such a way that the filter means locks against the lid element in a top position so that material collected by the collector element is trapped between the filter means and the lid element.

34. (New) An arrangement according to claim 31, wherein the lid element is connected to the collector element in such a way that when the lid element is prevented from moving in the collecting direction by engagement with the front wall of the electrolytic tank, the collector element will continue to move in the collecting direction.

35. (New) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein the filter means is installed in the collector element in such a way that the filter means can move turnably with respect to the separating member.

36. (New) An arrangement according to claim 30, further comprising a directing means that is forward of the collector element for directing at least one fluid jet towards the filter means and displacing solids settled on the bottom of the tank towards the filter means.

37. (New) An arrangement according to claim 30, further comprising at least one suction element to the rear of the collector element for removing solids that pass through the filter means.